

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MATTHEW BERNARD WELDON,

Defendant.

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CR. 07-40055-18

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION  
ON DEFENDANT'S CHANGE  
OF PLEA

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This matter came before the court for a change of plea hearing on Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

The Defendant, Matthew Bernard Weldon, appeared in person and by his counsel, Jim Eirinberg, while the United States appeared by its Assistant United States Attorney, John Haak.

The defendant consented in open court to the change of plea before a United States magistrate judge. This court finds that the defendant's consent was voluntary and upon the advice of counsel. The government also consented to the plea hearing before a magistrate judge.

Defendant reached a plea agreement with the government wherein he will plead guilty to Count 1 of the Second Superseding Indictment which charges him with Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846. At the hearing, the defendant was advised of the nature of the charges to which the defendant would plead guilty and the maximum penalties applicable, specifically: mandatory minimum 10 years imprisonment; maximum of life imprisonment; a \$4 million fine; or both; 5 years supervised release; 5 additional years imprisonment if supervised release is revoked; and a \$100 special assessment.

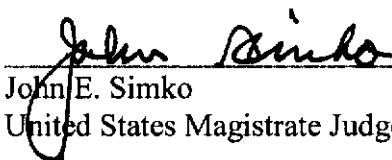
Upon questioning the defendant personally in open court, it is the finding of the court that the defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that the defendant is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea, and that his plea of guilty to Count 1 of the Second Superseding Indictment is a knowing and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense. It is, therefore, my report and recommendation that the guilty plea to Count 1 of the Second Superseding Indictment be accepted and the defendant be adjudged guilty of that offense.

**NOTICE TO PARTIES**

The parties have ten (10) days after service of this Report and Recommendation to file written objections pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), unless an extension of time for good cause is obtained. Failure to file timely objections will result in the waiver of the right to appeal questions of fact. Objections must be timely and specific in order to require de novo review by the District Court. Thompson v. Nix, 897 F.2d 356 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990); Nash v. Black, 781 F.2d 665 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986).

Dated this 11 day of March, 2008.

BY THE COURT:

  
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John E. Simko  
United States Magistrate Judge

ATTEST:

JOSEPH HAAS, Clerk

By  \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

(SEAL)